United Nations A/C.3/58/SR.8

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Official Records

Distr.: General
25 May 2004
English
Original: French

Third Committee

Summary record of the 8th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 October 2003, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Belinga-Eboutou ..... (Cameroon)
later: Mr. Priputen ..... (Slovakia)

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03-55186 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 108: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/58/3, A/58/87-E/2003/82, A/58/131-S/2003/703, A/58/165, A/58/222, A/58/223, A/C.3/58/L.3, A/C.3/58/L.4, A/C.3/58/L.5 and A/C.3/58/L.6)

Agenda item 109: International drug control (*continued*) (A/58/3, A/58/124, A/58/131-S/2003/703 and A/58/253)

1. **Mr. Bazel** (Afghanistan), speaking on agenda item 109, said that the Transitional Government had only limited resources but faced all the problems associated with an economy which, as a result of the degradation of the agricultural and economic infrastructure during more than 20 years of war, was based on the cultivation of crops for the production, trafficking and consumption of drugs – activities that the Government had banned by decree within weeks after its establishment. The eradication of illicit drugs was so high on the Government's agenda, that it had been assigned to the Office of the National Security Adviser, which had formulated a 10 year strategy – approved by the President in May 2003 – comprising the following main thrusts: vigorous enforcement against traffickers; national development programmes in the opium poppy growing areas; treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers with the involvement of social organizations, ulemas and community elders; enhancement of the role of local and provincial authorities in drug control activities; opium poppy eradication, and law enforcement; and introduction of substitute crops with an international market value.

2. Afghanistan was convinced that, with the assistance of the international community, the country's drug problem could be solved in accordance with the principles set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (shared responsibilities, balanced demand- and supply-reduction, and a comprehensive strategy).

3. The effects and ramifications of the drug problem had an impact on all aspects of the country's reconstruction process and Afghanistan was grateful to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for having recommended, in paragraph 22 of the joint ministerial statement issued at the ministerial meeting held at Vienna in April 2003 that adequate help should be provided to the country in support of its commitment to eliminate the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy. Drug control should be mainstreamed in all development efforts to rebuild Afghanistan, as it was stressed in the UNDP country programme for Afghanistan (DP/2000 3/36), which in paragraph 33 highlighted the relation between security and economic development. Through the introduction of substitute crops, the cultivation of the opium poppy had been reduced in the traditional poppy-cultivating provinces of southern Afghanistan and the experience thus acquired could be used in other parts of the country. The representative of Afghanistan, however, also referred to a recent news report, according to which farmers were complaining that substitution crops provided only insufficient gains.

4. In conclusion, the representative of Afghanistan thanked the countries (especially the United Kingdom) and bodies (especially the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) that provided assistance to his country.

5. *Mr. Priputen (Slovakia), Vice-Chairman, took the chair.*

6. **Ms. Olamendi** ((Mexico) said that the obstacles to combating drug trafficking and the related crimes and offences were still enormous, although the number of cultivations destroyed and criminal organizations dismantled and the volume of assets sequestrated and confiscated were unparalleled. Mexico was seriously affected by the drug scourge in many ways: as a producer, transit and consumer country. In fact, drug addiction had become a real public health problem in Mexico.

7. Mexico hailed the fact that all countries recognized their shared responsibility in the area of drugs and, in regional and global meetings, were increasingly ready to engage in information exchange and judicial cooperation. Mexico carried out relevant activities at the national, regional and international levels. At the regional level, it encouraged various initiatives, including the multilateral evaluation mechanism, and had initiated projects aimed at strengthening inter-American cooperation against illicit drug trafficking by sea. At the national level, it had adopted a national anti-narcotics programme targeting the areas given priority by the General Assembly.

8. The Mexican delegation welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on 29 September 2003 and announced that the country was adapting and strengthening its institutional and legal framework for combating crime. The Federal Government had brought before the Congress of the Union a series of draft legislative measures promoting the implementation of the Convention. The First Inter-American Meeting on Cooperation Mechanisms against Organized Crime, which concerned the drug traffic and had lead to the development of a cooperation and information-exchange system, had been held on 18 October 2003.

9. Mexico, aware of the importance of civil society and transparency in eliminating corruption, had enacted a law on access to public information. The law had taken effect in July 2003. The Mexican delegation welcomed the recent completion in Vienna of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption and urged the Member States to participate in the High-level Political Conference for the Purpose of Signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption, scheduled to take place in Merida, Mexico on 9–11 December 2003.

10. **Mr. Gzilal** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his country did not produce drugs but as a transit country was able to assess the amplitude that the drug problem had taken in recent years. Given the international ramifications of the drug traffic, a concerted response at the regional, bilateral and international levels was necessary. The stress should be put on prevention among young persons and children, awareness campaigns should be mounted through the media, drug procurement should be combated systematically, substitution crop programmes should be launched, measures against chemical precursors should be taken and particular attention should be paid to the strong link between the spreading of drugs, the drug traffic and poverty.

11. Regarding the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the progress achieved in meeting the goals set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (A/58/124), the Libyan delegation hoped that the objectives defined in the joint ministerial statement issued at the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs would be attained.

12. As a transit country, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had enacted a set of laws that stipulated stiff penalties against drug traffickers and drug addicts. It considered drugs as weapons of mass destruction and, since the drug traffic targeted innocent citizens, the offences carried penalties as severe as capital punishment. To combat the scourge, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had adhered to various bilateral and regional conventions.

13. Regarding organized crime, the Libyan delegation condemned the perverse effects of globalization and technological revolution in communications and information, phenomena that, while offering humanity new possibilities, had also boosted organized criminal networks. Because organized crime had recourse to violence readily and affected all social activities, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya hoped that its various forms would be addressed in the agenda of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held in Thailand in 2005. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on 29 September 2003 and was preparing to take the steps required for depositing the instruments of ratification of the Convention and the related Protocols.

14. Corruption, which sapped social justice and plundered financial resources, no longer was a local occurrence but had become a transnational phenomenon, against which all States should unite. An international instrument against corruption should address the problems related to the inextricable linkages between corruption and the other forms of organized crime. Therefore, the Libyan delegation hoped that the international community as a whole would endeavour to provide the instruments necessary for combating organized crime, including the illicit drugs traffic.

15. **Ms. Pulido Santana** (Venezuela) said that her country associated itself with the statement made by the Peruvian delegation on behalf of the Rio Group and with the statement that Ecuador would make on behalf of the Andean Community at the current session. Venezuela, an international drugs transit country, considered combating drugs a national security and defence priority. Its genuine commitment to that combat was confirmed in the latest report of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), according to which Venezuela was among the

20 countries where the largest drug seizures had taken place (paragraph 334 of document E/INCB/2002/1). The Government had formulated and implemented a national 2002–2007 anti-narcotics plan addressing all aspects of the phenomenon and, ideally, combined supply- and demand-reduction measures. At the latest Andean region summit, Venezuela had supported the establishment of an Andean committee for substitution activities – a regional body that, in view of the current trend towards shifting the cultivation of crops among countries, targeted both producer and transit countries. Venezuela was further interested in the Global Programme for Monitoring Illicit Crops of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

16. The Government had amended the anti-drug law, adding an article on chemical-product and precursor control. Concerning amphetamines and related precursors, it currently implemented an action programme comprising prevention, reduction and monitoring tools intended to obstruct the consumption of illegal synthetic drugs.

17. Venezuela suggested that joint and simultaneous activities by the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) should be intensified and the cooperation of those three bodies with the World Bank and other international financial institutions and the international community at large should be strengthened. Venezuela had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its two Additional Protocols.

18. Venezuela strove to eliminate impunity, which sustained corruption. During negotiations on the Convention against Corruption, Venezuela had stressed two elements that it considered indispensable: identification and repatriation of assets and funds acquired through corruption (itself an offence) and arrest and prosecution of persons guilty of corruption. The draft text supported in late September by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption, which met in Vienna, would hopefully be adopted unanimously at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Underscoring the points of special significance to her country (promotion of international cooperation, role of the coordinator, standards for preventing corruption-related money-laundering and civil-society participation), the representative of Venezuela referred with regret to the death of Mr. Charry Samper, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, and paid tribute to his efforts to ensure agreement on the draft text of the Convention.

19. **Mr. Neil** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), recalled that the General Assembly had decided on a new framework for international cooperation to address the growing drug problem. It was encouraging that, as highlighted in the reports of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (A/58/124) and the Secretary-General (A/58/253), most States were implementing the action plans that had emanated from the Twentieth Special Session of the General Assembly particularly by adopting national strategies that they coordinated in conjunction with civil society and by addressing all aspects of the problem. CARICOM welcomed the continued efforts undertaken for integrating prevention programmes into drug-demand reduction strategies, particularly initiatives aimed at developing life-skills and alternatives to drug abuse. It also welcomed the initiatives of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. The increase of technical assistance to various countries since 1998 was also an indicator of progress.

20. Nevertheless, much remained to be done in order to attain the overall targets set for 2008. Drug abuse, especially in developing countries, remained at an unacceptably high level and the rapid and widespread increase of the production and the abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances, especially among children and young people, were particularly alarming, since 2003 was the target year for the adoption of national legislation and programmes giving effect to the Action Plan against the Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors.

21. The ever-growing links between drug trafficking, arms smuggling and terrorism, threatened international peace and security and regional and national stability. Undermining respect for human rights, compromising the social order and democratic institutions and causing significant loss of human lives, those offences were a formidable challenge to the economic and social development of the countries concerned.

22. CARICOM urged addressing the two facets of the drug problem through systematic demand- and supply-reduction policies and endorsed the view expressed in

the Secretary-General's report (A/58/253) that such efforts should be stepped up over the next five years to achieve significant and measurable results. The CARICOM States, though neither source nor destination countries, had become victims of the illicit trade in narcotics because of their geographic location and favoured international assistance to transit countries, particularly in the areas of air, maritime and port control. With the assistance of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and its bilateral partners, CARICOM had embarked on initiatives whose results remained largely unsatisfactory. Further cooperation would help the formulation of preventive strategies dealing with both the supply and the demand side of the drug issue and its links with crime and violence. Increased technical and financial support was necessary, because the assistance currently provided, although it had allowed a considerable rise in the volume of activities carried out in fulfilment of commitments made at the Twentieth Special Session of the General Assembly, was woefully inadequate for sustained and long-term progress, especially in developing countries. To the extent that the number of States having enacted legislation to implement initiatives against money laundering had increased, further international assistance was required, especially from multilateral development agencies and financial institutions. The link between the cultivation of drugs and economic difficulties in the region was undeniable. It was therefore imperative that the international community should support governments in generating alternative sources of employment to address the economic constraints that often fostered illicit drug cultivation and drug trafficking.

23. The importance that the region ascribed to the problem of the proliferation and employment of small arms was due less to armed conflict and more to the criminal use of those weapons by those who sought to destabilize the region, undermining the prospects for economic and social development and weakening the social fabric. The CARICOM States called for effective national and international regulations based on collective political commitment, to halt the transfer of legal weapons to illegal markets. They therefore remained committed to implementing the Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, held in July 2001.

24. CARICOM drew attention to the specific threat faced by the region in view of the activities of individuals who had been deported from other territories for criminal pursuits and who destabilized Caribbean societies. All parties had a responsibility to address that issue. Improvements in information technology and economic globalization had helped inter alia criminals in the perpetration of crimes and CARICOM concurred with the view expressed in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (A/58/124) that data collection and analysis and the evaluation of results of ongoing policies were essential tools.

25. Through increased bilateral and multilateral cooperation, the CARICOM countries had embarked on several initiatives which now formed the core of action in the region. The training of law enforcement officers under the auspices of the Caribbean Regional Drug Law Enforcement Training Centre, established in Jamaica in 1998; the development of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD); and ongoing efforts by Member States to establish a counter-terrorism plan of action were illustrations of the progress achieved. The introduction by the Caribbean Law Enforcement Council of a computerized system for tracking small vessels in 1999 and the establishment of a Caribbean Council for Heads of Forensic Laboratories to introduce appropriate legislation for combating money laundering reflected the seriousness with which CARICOM viewed the issues of drug control and crime prevention.

26. Referring to the recent entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the expected adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the High-level Political Conference for the Purpose of Signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption scheduled to take place in Mexico in December 2003, the representative of Jamaica stressed the usefulness and importance of international cooperation and of the collective efforts of all Member States to address the social and economic deficiencies that provided the breeding ground for the twin evils of drugs and transnational organized crime.

27. **Mr. Osmane** (Algeria) pointed out that recent data showed variations in the trend of illicit drug abuse by type of drug and by region, but also a steady growth of the phenomenon. Despite the efforts certainly put

forth at the international, regional and national levels in order to attain the goals set in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its Twentieth Special Session, the problem persisted and was further complicated by the definite link between illegal drugs trafficking and other criminal activities.

28. Algeria had actively participated in the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The establishment of a national agency to combating drugs and drug addiction in September 2002 and the recent Cabinet meeting on a national master plan for combating drugs and drug addiction showed Algeria's continued preoccupation with drug-trafficking as a serious menace to public health.

29. Because of its proximity to producing countries, Algeria, a drug-traffic transit area, had experienced a considerable increase of drugs consumption, the authorities had hardly any real possibility to intervene. The Algerian delegation reaffirmed its conviction that international drugs control depended on strengthened international cooperation and the provision of effective, continuous and unconditional assistance to countries having opted for substitution crops and to transit countries. Consequently, Algeria welcomed the commendation of the joint ministerial statement issued at Vienna on 17 April 2003 (A/58/124) concerning the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

30. Algeria reiterated its request to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to provide appropriate help to the African quinquennial plan adopted at Algiers in February 2000 and, given the seriousness of the situation in Africa, urged it to continue to cooperate with the other bodies of the United Nations system in support of HIV/AIDS prevention strategies.

31. The entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified by Algeria in October 2002, was a victory for the Organization and a landmark in mobilizing the international community against crime in its various forms. The Algerian Government had hosted, on 29 and 30 October 2002 in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), an African conference on the promotion of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and in September 2003, under the auspices of the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO or Interpol), a regional meeting on the links between terrorism and organized crime in Africa.

32. In the fight against international crime, Algeria, devastated by terrorism for more than a decade, favoured an approach based on concerted action, solidarity and collective effort and therefore welcomed the outcome of the negotiations on the draft International Convention against Corruption.

33. In conclusion, Algeria would spare no effort towards the success of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and pledged full cooperation with the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC).

34. **Mr. Alenezi** (Kuwait) reiterated his delegation's condolences on the death of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Iraq during the attack perpetrated against the United Nations and against the peace process under way in that country.

35. Kuwait fully endorsed the conclusions of the Secretary-General's report (A/58/222) and urged all States to implement its recommendations; and approved of the efforts put forth by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in preparing the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

36. Terrorism continued to seriously threaten international peace and security. It was the outcome of various factors difficult to identify and could not be ascribed to any particular religion, nationality or ethnicity. Consequently, it could be eliminated only through efforts put forth by the entire international community under the auspices of the United Nations – with respect for the dignity and fundamental freedoms of individuals, democracy and due process of law. In fact, the States should ensure that terrorism repression was in line with their obligations under international – particularly humanitarian – law. Promoting inter-cultural dialogue was equally important.

37. Terrorism targeting States and their population was a menace to international peace and security. Accordingly, the members of the previous Iraqi regime should be prosecuted for war crimes – proven on a daily basis and constituting flagrant violations of human rights – against Kuwait and their own country.

38. The Israeli occupation of Arab territory was criminal. Israel continued to engage in the worst forms

of violence against civilians, including women, children and older people, disregarding all international human-rights instruments.

39. The appearance of new types of crime and the use of modern methods to commit them called for the continuation of the activities of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which should become a permanent body. In that connection, the Kuwaiti delegation welcomed initiatives under the United Nations Programme for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, providing Member States with technical assistance, particularly in view of the ratification and implementation of the 12 international terrorism-related conventions and their protocols.

40. Kuwait paid close attention to issues involving drugs, another menace to the international community, as shown by the efforts of public authorities and civil society. The Government had enacted laws that considered addicts as patients rather than offenders and had led to the establishment of a national anti-narcotics committee responsible for formulating a comprehensive policy, proposing plans and programmes to implement it and raising public awareness. Kuwait was convinced of the need for effective coordination between government authorities and civil society towards implementing a national anti-drug strategy. Public instances responsible for combating that scourge had launched an information project, financed by the national anti-drug committee and including awareness campaigns in which literary, artistic and sports personalities participated. The national committee also funded leisure activities for young people. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) had expressed support and encouragement for those programmes.

41. Kuwait was disturbed by evidence, referred to in the Secretary-General's Report on the Work of the Organization (A/58/1), that opium cultivation had resumed in Afghanistan on a large scale despite the measures adopted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to strengthen the implementation of relevant legislation in neighbouring countries and transit countries. To ensure further positive results, the activities that had been launched should continue, particularly in the forms of assisting countries that endeavoured to eliminate opium poppy cultivation and proposing substitute crops. Some of those countries faced financial difficulties hindering them in implementing drug-demand reduction plans. Strict regulations should be imposed by recognized international bodies on drugs supply and demand. Demand reduction was a key element of the global problem of drugs and therefore it was essential to launch programmes for rehabilitating and reintegrating addicts.

42. **Mr. Muchemi** (Kenya) said that the problem of organized crime was particularly profound in Africa, prey to a severe shortage of financial and technical resources, and the increasing high rate of criminal activity had lead to a substantial loss of resources that should have been used on national development programmes. The new Government of Kenya was therefore fully committed to international efforts to combat international crime. Urgent steps were under way in Kenya to ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols.

43. The Kenyan delegation fully supported the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) and called for the provision of additional resources to CICP to enable it to deliver technical assistance and cooperation, particularly to developing countries. Kenya endorsed the recommendations made in the Secretary-General's report on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/58/223).

44. The Kenyan delegation welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which – Kenya was convinced – would improve the effectiveness of the international community against organized crime, and called upon all Member States to ensure that the Convention was adopted by the General Assembly, so that it could be opened for signature in December 2003 in Mexico.

45. Kenya reaffirmed its commitment to the 1998 Political Declaration on the guiding principles of drug demand reduction and measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem, and to the associated action plan. In that Declaration the international community had recognized that drugs-, arms- and human-trafficking activities were inter-twined.

46. Because of Kenya's unique position as a hub of communication in the East African Region, the country had in the late 1980s and early 1990s been a conduit for drugs from the Far East towards the West. The early signs of a local demand, which had initially been

negligible, had been linked to the growth of the tourist industry. In the recent past, however, there had been an upsurge in the production, distribution and consumption of drugs, affecting mostly the young. In line with the plan of action associated with the 1998 Political Declaration, the Kenyan Government had established the Office of the National Co-ordinator for the Campaign against Drug Abuse; formulated a Drug Control Master Plan; enacted the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Control Act, which imposed stiff penalties on dealers; increased border controls; provided further training of customs and immigration officials to enable them to more easily detect illicit drugs; and strengthened the Anti-Narcotics Unit within the Kenyan Police Department. The Kenyan Government actively engaged with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in assessing the drug abuse situation in the country, raising public awareness of the problem, reducing demand, limiting supply and strengthening the control system through training programmes for judiciary, law-enforcement and financial-institution staff.

47. The Kenyan delegation reaffirmed the commitment of the Government to international cooperation in confronting the drug menace. At the regional level, Kenya and its sister East African Community Member States had adopted a Protocol on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in the East African Region. Moreover, Kenya had ratified the African Union Political Declaration and Plan of Action for Combating Drug Trafficking and supported the fullest possible realization of the potential of the United Nations as an instrument for developing an integrated international strategy to counteract new challenges and threats and to promote effective interaction among States in fighting against drugs and international organized crime.

48. The Kenyan delegation shared the concerns expressed in the Secretary-General's report (A/58/253) and called on development partners and international agencies to provide additional resources for the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

49. The Kenyan Government was gravely concerned about policies favouring the legalization of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Such policies could only jeopardize drug demand reduction efforts, particularly in Africa. Kenya therefore called upon all countries to renew their commitment to upholding the international Drug Control Regime.

50. The Kenyan Delegation, knowing full well the problem of poverty, reiterated the importance of alternative crop development programmes and increased market-access for products from developing countries as part of the fight against illicit drug crops and trafficking.

51. **Mr. Agad** (Saudi Arabia) welcomed the Secretary-General's report on Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity (A/58/222), and the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-First Century.

52. To combat the phenomenon of terrorism, which could not be attributed to any particular religion or nationality, the international community as a whole had to combine its efforts in pursuing terrorist groups and formulating a global convention on terrorism.

53. Saudi Arabia endeavoured to contribute to strengthening international cooperation for crime prevention and criminal justice, particularly by participating in the fight against organized crime; corruption; smuggling migrants; trafficking in persons, especially women and children; offences related to drugs and money-laundering; illegal arms traffic; and other criminal activities supporting terrorism in its various forms. Trafficking in human organs was another, just as dangerous, organized criminal activity. In fact, it was constantly spreading, represented an ever-growing danger, undermined the rule of law and ran counter to economic and social development. It was therefore necessary to prepare a new protocol that would address that traffic, providing for penalties against the offenders and for the protection of victims through material and moral assistance. The Council of Arab Ministers for Domestic Affairs at its twelfth session, held in Vienna, had addressed a note to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice requesting it to consider the drafting of a relevant international protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

54. Saudi Arabia contributed to international efforts against crime and drugs according to the sharia, under the country's bilateral and multilateral agreements and

through the international bodies of which it was a member. It had signed the 40 recommendations concerning money-laundering; begun to implement them through ad hoc committees; acceded to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Activities; and ratified the Arab convention against the use and illicit trade of narcotic and psychotropic substances.

55. **Ms. Antonijevic** (Serbia and Montenegro) said that because of the serious implications of organized crime for the stability of States, particularly as a result of the links between organized crime, terrorism and inter-ethnic conflicts, the international community had given priority to combating that scourge. Active cooperation in that area had resulted in the formulation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its additional Protocols. Serbia and Montenegro welcomed their entry into force and appreciated the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), particularly regarding assistance to developing countries and to countries in transition.

56. Serbia and Montenegro, seriously affected by the problem of organized crime, had created a legal framework to deal with it. Thus, in 2002, a law was adopted on the fight against organized crime. To combat trafficking in human beings, the most common form of organized crime in Southeast Europe, decisive measures had been taken: relevant legislation had been amended, assistance was provided to the victims of that traffic in cooperation with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and awareness campaigns had been launched. Legislation had been enacted against money-laundering.

57. Given the transnational character of organized crime, regional and international cooperation was of key importance. Such cooperation was pursued under the South-East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP), the Southeast Europe Stability Pact and other initiatives, and at the bilateral level.

58. The Government of Serbia and Montenegro was especially concerned that various forms of organized crime prevailed in the Serbian province of Kosovo-Metohija and once again urged the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), which had administered the province for more than four years, to step up its efforts against that scourge.

59. **Ms. Ahmed** (Sudan), praised the efforts put forth by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), especially after it had been restructured, and said that the international combat against drug abuse required a balanced and comprehensive approach, compatible with the objectives of the United Nations and international law and thoroughly respectful of the sovereignty of States, their territorial integrity and non-interference in their domestic affairs.

60. Sudan welcomed the joint ministerial statement issued at the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, reaffirming the resolve of governments to implement the recommendations of the Twentieth Special Session of the General Assembly. The drug abuse problem could be dealt with only through cooperation at all levels and through capacity building in developing countries.

61. The African continent, already weakened by poverty and epidemics, was currently also exposed to the problem of drugs, not only as a transit hub but also as a result of local drug-consumption, and needed international support in its fight against that scourge. Sudan hoped in particular that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) could launch awareness campaigns targeting the young under some of its programmes for Africa.

62. Sudan welcomed the follow-up to the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and was concerned over the indulgence towards the consumption of drugs in certain regions of the world.

63. Sudan hailed the entry into force, in September 2003, of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which would certainly boost national and international efforts in that area. It also welcomed the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption. Corruption, which could have direct repercussions on the peace, security and economy of States, must be combated at the international level. The Sudanese delegation hoped that the General Assembly would adopt the text of the Convention at its current session.

64. At the national level, Sudan had enacted laws stipulating penalties for environmental violations, corruption and illicit enrichment and providing for the extradition of criminals.

65. **Ms. Kusorgbor** (Ghana) welcomed the strengthening of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, which would enable the Programme to help the States to effectively respond to the increasing technological complexity of criminal activities. Ghana hailed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and fully supported ongoing preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which would hopefully lead to the formulation of effective strategies to combat crime and the definition of a set of guidelines that would reflect diverse socio-cultural norms for the improvement of criminal justice systems.

66. Thanks to capacity-building initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of the Interior in conjunction with the various national security agencies, consisting in particular in giving priority to recruitment, training and equipping the police, security had greatly improved in Ghana. An endowment fund had been established to mobilize additional resources from the public sector in order to back the Government in its efforts.

67. Corruption involved a nexus of problems including issues of morality and social behaviour, two areas that could not be legislated. It was therefore essential to complement legislation with education. Ghana welcomed the consensus reached on the draft Convention against Corruption and considered the High Level Political Conference for the Purpose of Signing a Convention on Corruption, which was to be held in Mexico in December 2003, as timely. The Convention would hopefully help to streamline the varying perceptions of corruption and to define an internationally acceptable framework.

68. Ghana remained committed to ridding its society of corruption. Firmly believing in the rule of law and the protection of human rights, considered critical to the achievement of socio-economic development, the Government had taken in the previous two years steps to improve the criminal justice system and address in particular the issue of corruption. It had formulated in 2001 a "zero tolerance" policy, under which high-ranking public officers were held accountable for any economic malfeasance. The Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, the Auditor-General's department and the Serious Fraud Office were being assisted with a view to enhancing their operational activities.

69. Despite financial difficulties, the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had marketed its services to the Member States in hopes of encouraging them to strengthen the rule of law. Ghana therefore supported the Secretary-General's recommendations (A/58/223) for building the capacity of the Institute in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

70. Ghana, which had actively participated in the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, was concerned over alarming evidence of abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants referred to in the quinquennial evaluation of the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session (A/58/253). Overall, however, some progress had been achieved, which proved that the twentieth special session had not been a vain exercise.

71. Always strongly supportive of collective efforts to tackle the drug problem, Ghana had been active in sub-regional cooperation under the ECOWAS Protocols on Mutual Assistance on Crime and Related Issues in order to prevent, in particular, the export and transit of drugs. The Government was aware that greater efforts were necessary in countering money-laundering and fraud at the sub-regional and national levels. At the national level, Ghana had enacted the Narcotics Control and Enforcement Law and set up the Narcotics Control Board – the Government's central coordination agency – and, in cooperation with the media and educational establishments, undertook awareness raising programmes in the schools.

72. The linkage between poverty and the supply and demand for drugs had been established. Accordingly, the developing countries should fulfil commitments made at major international conferences and summits in view of attaining the Millennium Development Objectives (MDGs), particularly the eradication of poverty.

73. **Ms. Wijono** (Indonesia) said that organized crime and some officials robbed many nations of wealth needed for development activities. Indonesia therefore fully supported the Secretary-General's appeal to Member States to sign the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Mexico in December 2003. Indonesia had signed the United Nations convention against Transnational Organized Crime and

two of its Protocols and was in the process of ratifying those instruments.

74. At the national level, Indonesia had met the challenges by strengthening its legal machinery and enhancing governance, while safeguarding the social and economic interests of the population. Accordingly, it had taken measures to prevent the transfer of funds derived from acts of corruption and money-laundering and to deny funds to terrorist organizations. Furthermore, it had established an anti-corruption commission and an independent financial intelligence unit.

75. Since many nations continued to suffer from illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption, the international community should strengthen the existing multilateral instruments and mechanisms and introduce new ones with a view to saving future generations. Indonesia attached great importance to international cooperation in that area and worked actively with the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). With support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), it was pursuing the goal of a drug-free ASEAN by 2015.

76. **Mr. Gallegos** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Andean Community (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela), said that the Community associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Rio Group.

77. Aware of the serious threat represented by the production, trafficking and consumption of psychotropic substances against the health and well-being of persons and the stability of States, the Andean countries had participated, within the United Nations, in the formulation of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Activities.

78. At the regional level, the Andean countries had supported the activities carried out through the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS), in particular the implementation of the multilateral mechanism of evaluation, expected to help to follow up on individual or collective activities carried out by the countries as part of the combat against illicit drugs.

79. In March 2003, the foreign affairs and defence ministers of the Andean countries had firmly reiterated their condemnation of terrorism, drug trafficking and related offences, practices that constituted a serious threat to regional peace and security, human rights and democracy. They had agreed to strengthen their cooperation in order to combat those scourges more efficiently. Furthermore, the presidents of the Andean Community Member States, meeting in June 2003, had decided to strengthen cooperation in many key areas, including the fight against drug trafficking and related offences.

80. At the international level, the agreement between the Andean Community and the European Union on the control of chemical precursors had entered into force.

81. The Member States of the Andean Community were resolved to launch the activities necessary for dealing with the above serious problems on the basis of shared responsibilities, unconditionally and focusing on alternative activities. Those efforts would bear fruit only if in parallel consumer countries implemented effective demand-reduction policies.

82. **Mr. Dall'oglio** (Observer for the International Organization for Migrations (IOM)), speaking on agenda item 108, welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on 29 September 2003, less than three years after its adoption, and the forthcoming entry into force of the Protocol on smuggling migrants and the Protocol on trafficking in persons. The second protocol had a broad geographical coverage, encompassing both source and destination countries. Those developments indicated that the efforts of the international community – both governments and non-State actors – to raise awareness had had a significant impact.

83. The motivation of States to reduce and abolish smuggling and trafficking sprang from a desire not only to limit the number of irregular migrants, but also to eliminate the related criminal element and to ensure the well-being and the protection of the fundamental rights of migrants.

84. IOM continued to encourage its Member States to accede to and ratify the Convention with a view to its globalization. It also considered it appropriate to support state parties in the complex legislative and administrative measures necessary for implementing the Convention and its Protocols. IOM provided technical assistance in drafting new counter-trafficking legislation and in reviewing and upgrading national

policies and legal frameworks. It expected that its work would intensify in such areas as capacity building and awareness raising. IOM also carried out training activities for government and NGO staff with a view to disseminating information on best practices in preventing and combating trafficking and assisting the victims. IOM would continue and strengthen its activities, yet it believed that its most relevant contribution consisted in combining those programmes within a context of comprehensive migration management. To that purpose, it was necessary to develop alternative channels for legal and non-exploitative labour migration. IOM was doing that through a concerted dialogue between sending and receiving countries, focusing on the demand factors driving trafficking and smuggling.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.